

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
May 27, 2016

Registrations for 2016 Summer Camp continue! We currently have a waiting list for swim lessons in the 1st and 2nd session, but a few spots remain in both camps. Go to www.clewistonrecreation.com for pricing, registrations more information regarding camp, or call the Youth Center at 983-1492.

City Offices will be closed on Monday, May 30, 2016 in observance of Memorial Day. There will be no residential garbage pickup on Memorial Day; garbage will be picked up on Tuesday, May 31, 2016.

Dates to Remember

May 30, 2016 – Memorial Day - City Offices Closed – No residential garbage pickup
June 8, 2016 – Special Magistrate Hearing
June 13, 2016 – Library Advisory Board Meeting
June 16, 2016 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting
June 16, 2016 – Clewiston City Commission Workshop and Budget Workshop
June 20, 2016 – Clewiston City Commission Meeting

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Travis Reese reports:

- We have issued a certificate of occupancy for the single family residence (SFR) located at 403 West Avenida del Rio. It is one of seven (7) SFR permits we have issued in the last twelve (12) months, making it the busiest period of time since 2007 & 2008. We also issued a permit for a duplex on West Aztec and the GreenTree West Project of fourteen (14) buildings, fifty (50) units. There are also plans for another SFR on East Del Monte and two (2) pool applications under review;
- The Fire Marshal and members of Hendry County Emergency Management toured the USAF Hurricane Hunters' C-130 stationed in Biloxi, Mississippi. This event was hosted in Naples by NOAA. During tropical storms or hurricanes, the information received from this aircraft eventually finds its way to emergency operation centers throughout Florida, including the centers in Clewiston and Hendry County.



Community Improvement Officer Debbie McNeil reports:

- I have responded to various citizens' complaints including but not all inclusive public nuisance buildings, lawn maintenance including hedge height, signage, business tax receipt, commercial maintenance, chickens, unlicensed contracting and trash management.
- Operation Show Your Numbers continues throughout the City until compliance of commercial and residential structures is achieved. Thank you to Ricardo Martinez and the utilities crew who continue to be very helpful with this operation thus far.
- Our next scheduled Magistrate Hearing is on June 8, 2016 at 10:00 AM in the City Commission Chambers.
- 29 new code cases were generated, 17 code cases resolved, 0 referred out and 4 rental inspections completed.

Hurricane Season June 1 thru November 30**Overall Message: #ItOnlyTakesOne.**

It only takes one hurricane to change your life and your community. Hurricanes are one of nature's most powerful and destructive events that the nation faces; they've caused eight of the 10 costliest disasters in U.S. history.

GET READY NOW It's the best way to be prepared for these dangerous storms. People should:

- **Build an emergency kit** with a gallon of water per person, per day, non-perishable food, a flashlight, battery-powered radio, first aid kit, medications, supplies for an infant if applicable, a multi-purpose tool, personal hygiene items, copies of important papers, cell phone chargers, extra cash, blankets, maps of the area and emergency contact information. Many of these items are available through the Red Cross Store at redcrossstore.org.
- Talk with household members and **create an evacuation plan**. Practicing the plan minimizes confusion and fear during the event.
- **Be informed**. Learn about the community's hurricane response plan. Plan routes to local shelters, register family members with special medical needs as required and make plans for pets.
- People should also download the free Red Cross Emergency App to select up to 35 different severe weather and emergency alerts on their mobile device. The content includes expert guidance on what to do before, during and after different emergencies or disasters from home fires to hurricanes. All Red Cross apps can be found in smartphone app stores by searching for American Red Cross or by going to redcross.org/apps.

If someone already has a disaster kit, now is the time make sure the food and water is still okay to consume and that copies of important documents are up to date. If they already have an emergency plan for their household, they should talk about it again with family members so everyone knows what to do if an emergency occurs.

With the Hurricane season fast approaching the Community Improvement Division is asking that all of our neighbors take this time to walk and observe their property with a high wind event in mind. Take this time to secure or remove any items that has the potential to become missiles and constitute a nuisance, detrimental to health, safety and welfare of all neighbors within the city during an event.

Code Review:

- **ARTICLE III. - JUNKED, WRECKED PROPERTY**

- **Sec. 34-52. - Definitions.**

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Junk means wrecked, derelict, dismantled, partially dismantled or nonoperative vehicles, washing machines, refrigerators, dishwashers, water heaters, television sets, similar machinery, boats, old scrap copper, brass, rope, rags, batteries, paper, lumber, trash, rubber, debris, oddments, wastements, litter, leavings, ruins, castoffs, rummage, waste, and any other old scrap ferrous or nonferrous materials.

Junkyard means a place, structure, lot or parcel of land where junk is bought, sold, exchanged, stored, baled, packed, disassembled or handled as a business.

Property means any real property within the city which is not a street or highway.

Street or *highway* means the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly dedicated right-of-way within the city.

Vehicle means a machine propelled by power other than human power designed to travel along the ground by the use of wheels, treads, runners or slides and shall include, but not be limited to, automobiles, trucks, trailers, motorcycles, tractors, buggies, wagons and farm equipment.

(Code 1982, § 9-1; Code 1999, § 34-81; Ord. No. 88-5, pt. 1, 8-15-1988)

- **Sec. 34-53. - Nuisance declared.**

The accumulation and storage of junk not maintained as provided in this article shall constitute a nuisance, detrimental to health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the city.

(Code 1982, § 9-2; Code 1999, § 34-82; Ord. No. 88-5, pt. 1, 8-15-1988)

- **Sec. 34-54. - Junk on street or highway prohibited.**

No person shall leave any junk upon a street or highway. This section shall not apply to grass, leaves, tree and shrub clippings and similar items which have been placed out to be picked up by the city.

(Code 1982, § 9-3; Code 1999, § 34-83; Ord. No. 88-5, pt. 1, 8-15-1988)

- **Sec. 34-55. - Junk on real property prohibited; exceptions.**

No person in charge or control of any property, whether as owner, occupant, lessee or otherwise, shall allow any junk to remain on any real property within the city for a period longer than 72 hours, nor shall any person deposit junk upon the real property of another person. This prohibition shall not apply to junk in an entirely enclosed building, a junkyard maintained in a lawful manner, or junk vehicles on the business property of a new or used vehicle business maintained in a lawful manner.

(Code 1982, § 9-4; Code 1999, § 34-84; Ord. No. 88-5, pt. 1, 8-15-1988)

- **Sec. 34-56. - Notice for removal of junk on property.**

(a)

It shall be the duty of the code enforcement officer to give written notice to the registered owner of any junk which is in violation of this article, and to the registered lienholder thereof, to the person responsible for depositing the junk, or to give such notice to the owner of the real property, or the person in charge or control of such real property, where such junk is situated (in cases where the identity of the owner or lienholder is not registered or otherwise readily ascertainable) advising such person that such junk violates this article and demanding that such junk be removed to a lawful place. Such notice may be given by personal service or by certified mail, return receipt requested. A copy of the written notice shall be posted on the property where the junk is located when the original notice is mailed or delivered.

(b)

Notice shall be deemed to be complete and sufficient when addressed to the owner and lien holder of the personal property, and the owners of the real property as shown on the registration of the personal property and on the latest tax roll and deposited in the United States mail with proper postage prepared.

(Code 1982, § 9-6; Code 1999, § 34-86; Ord. No. 88-5, pt. 1, 8-15-1988)

All Clewiston Code of Ordinances may be publicly accessed on Municode at the following link:

https://www2.municode.com/library/fl/clewiston/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=14849

If you have any questions you may contact the Community Improvement Division at 141 Central Avenue, Clewiston Utilities Building. The public is encouraged to report code violations by contacting us at the above address or 983-1454.

Join us in our dedication to fight the blight in America's Sweetest Town.

Library Director Barrett reports:

- The Clewiston Library has now completed its I HELP programs for the 2015/2016 year. These programs, sponsored by the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, included the After School Tutoring and Homework Help Program, the Lexia Reading Program, the ESL Program, the Pre-School Children Program, and the Every Child Ready to Read Parent Training Program. Each program proved very successful. For example, 914 sessions were held for the After School Program, counting each child that was tutored each time as a session.
- Montura now has a mini branch. The ribbon to the alcove allowed us in the Montura Clubhouse was cut on Wednesday, May 25, 2016 by Commissioners Janet Taylor, Karson Turner, Central County Drainage District Board Member Bruno Naranja, Harlem Library Director Gretchen Debree and yours truly, Ava Barrett.
- Computer classes will begin in the library on Monday, June 6, 2016 at 5:30 PM. Classes will be held every Monday for six to eight weeks and will accommodate learning the Microsoft applications – Word, Excel, etc.
- Summer school for children in Grades 2 – 5 will begin on June 13, 2016 until June 30th, 2016.
- **For information regarding any of our programs, please call the library at (863) 983-1493 and remember to visit www.hendrylibraries.org. Your library truly has a lot to offer.**

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush Reports:

- Get all Clewiston Golf Course news. Visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov and sign up under Constant Contact. You will automatically be put on the golf course e-mail.
- Get your grips re-done. Contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Golf lessons are available. Contact Robbie Rush at 863-983-1448.
- Clewiston Golf Course Summer Memberships are available now. June 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016 (\$180.00) which includes tax.
- Member Rate for unlimited holes the same day is \$19.00 plus tax.
- Non-Member Rate for unlimited holes the same day is \$28.00 plus tax.
- Clewiston Golf Course Summer First Tee Junior Golf Camps are June 13-17, 2016 and July 11-15, 2016. For more information, contact the golf pro shop at 863-983-1448.
- Clewiston Elks Lodge Golf Tournament is scheduled for June 11, 2016. Call the golf shop at 863-983-1448 to sign up.
- **Responsibilities we have as golfers when we play golf:** 1) Replacing or sanding our divots; 2) Raking sand traps after we exit them; 3) Repairing our pitch marks on the green; 4) Keeping our golf carts off green and tee slopes; 5) Letting faster players through; and 6) Throwing your trash away.
- **Golf Tip of the Week:** How to hit a low slice: First, move the golf ball back in your stance, just back of center; Second, open the club face slightly; and Third, take a three quarter swing back and through. This will give you a low slice type golf shot.

Recreation Director Lance Ramer Reports:

- Lifeguards and LIT's continue to train this week at C.S. Moot Pool on rescue skills, backboard rescues, safe pool entry and retrieves. They have completed their employment orientations and we are awaiting a few physical and drug screens to come back to be fully staffed for the summer.
- The C.S. Mott Pool and the James Mason Pool will both open this Memorial Day Weekend. Both Pools will operate on the same schedule:
 - Saturday May 28th – 10am-6pm
 - Sunday May 29th – 1-6pm
 - Monday May 30th – 1-6pm
- Check our website www.clewistonrecreation.com and our FB page Clewiston Recreation for the regular pool operating schedules and some NEW activities.
- Clewiston Baseball & Softball All-Star teams have been formed to participate in the Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken District Tournament in several age groups in N. Ft. Myers on June 19th. Teams will practice at Sugarland Sports Complex through post-season play!
- Our U-14 Travel Baseball team will host Belle Glade in a double-header this Saturday, May 28st at Stall Field (Field #1) at Sugarland Sports Complex. Games begin at 2pm and 4pm.
- Plans have been finalized to aerate, fertilize, top dress, over-seed and repair all game surfaces at Sugarland Sports Complex over the summer. Staff has begun removing, cleaning and storing equipment from the soccer fields in preparation.
- Staff is checking and repairing all irrigation systems at Sugarland Sports Complex, Civic Park and the Sugar Festival Field.

- Counselor & CIT applications were reviewed last week and “offer” letters for those positions were mailed out last week along with a schedule of orientation dates, CPR and 1st aid classes, Live Scan background checks will take place on May 31st at the Youth Center through Glades Initiative. Summer Camp will begin its 1st 3 week session on June 13th.
- Summer Co-Ed Softball leagues are forming and schedules are being made. Call Andre at 983-1492 to make sure your team gets in for this summer.
- GREAT NEWS! The City of Clewiston was approved for funding through the TDC/EDC for John Boy Auditorium renovations.
- UPCOMING Weekly highlights for Clewiston Recreation
 - May 28th – Birthday Party Noon-5pm Sugarland Park Pavilion
 - May 28th – U-14 double header 2 & 4pm Field #1 Sugarland Sports Complex
 - May 29th – Setup tent at Ridgelawn Cemetery for Memorial Day Service
 - May 30th – Memorial Day Service 9:30am Ridgelawn Cemetery
 - May 30th – Pool Party 11am – 2pm C.S. Mott Pool
 - May 31st – Level 2 background screening 9am-5pm Youth Center
 - June 1st – Pool Party 6-8pm C.S. Mott Pool
 - June 2nd – FRWA Training 7am-5pm John Boy Auditorium
- If you are interested in participating in an adult co-ed dodgeball league, summer co-ed softball league, or Summer K-5th AAU Track and Field, please contact Andre at 983-1492.
- Please visit www.clewistonrecreation.com to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs.

Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports:

- Mosquito Control: The City Manager and Public Works Director met with Clarke Mosquito Control personnel this week to discuss what action Clarke is taking to address the ZIKA Virus. These actions are in line with the National direction in addressing this virus. Residents are invited to visit the City of Clewiston website and look at the information discussed during a training event the contractor attended. There have been no *Ae aegypti* or *Ae albopictus*, the mosquito that carries the virus, caught in any of our traps. We are continuing to run spray missions on Tuesdays and Fridays and are scheduled for an air application for the Memorial Day weekend.
- Street Maintenance: (1) Two Royal Poinciana Trees were planted behind the Library this week. One will be dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Jean Anderson early next month. (2) Staff has been working the southwestern quadrant of town replacing old, faded or outdated STOP signs and straightening posts. This is the first of a cycle planned to go through town and address signage needs.
- Building Maintenance: A request for a quote has been sent to local contractors for the replacement of two windows and the blocking up of four window openings in the west wall of the Utility Building. As of the time of this report, only one contractor has responded to the request.
- Tree trimming: The first of June is the start of hurricane season. The City is again offering amnesty for the cost of disposing of tree trimmings during the month of June only. Residents are required to call 983-1471 and set an appointment for staff to review the request. If your request is approved, it will be recorded in the Public Works Office.

Only approved addresses will be granted amnesty. Unapproved debris piles that are larger than the allowed amount collected will be charged a “Special Pick-up Fee”.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Officers have been responding to numerous accounts of street racing in various locations in town. When caught, there will be trips to jail all around for those involved. There are few things more dangerous for innocent, uninvolved bystanders than racing on the highway.
- A traffic accident on Hoover Dike road may have been part of an ongoing dispute between two women. Two people in one vehicle were transported to the hospital. The other driver was charged in the crash. The investigation is continuing.
- Click-it-or-Ticket is in full swing. Please make sure you are buckled up, for everyone's safety.
- Graduation Ceremonies at Cane Field went smoothly last week. Congratulations and best wishes to all the graduating seniors. GO TIGERS!
- A street fight turned serious this week when one of the combatants pulled out a knife. No one was seriously injured, but the knife wielder was arrested and taken to jail.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activities:
 - 1118** Commercial / Residential Security Checks Made
 - 631** Complaints Investigated
 - 56** Traffic Citations Issued
 - 33** Arrests Made
 - 7** City Ordinance Violations
 - 65** Merchant Escorts
 - 22** Alarms Responded To
 - 4** Traffic Accidents Investigated

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- Water Sewer Activities
 - Repaired 2" pipe at Library and repaired two ¾" lines for Public Works.
 - Read all lift stations.
 - Assisted South Shore Water Association with an 8" water main break.
 - Les Garrett assisted FRWA with inspection of lift stations.
- Electric Activities
 - Work continued this week with replacement of underground electrical services in Fairgrounds and Everglades Trailer Parks.
- Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom of the City's website page www.clewiston-fl.gov. You may update your information at any time through the same link.
- If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or insulation, remember the City offers a rebate program for those items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you information. You can also visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or call our office.

- **DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR METER BASED SURGE PROTECTION!**
Visit our office today.
- **ONLINE BILL PAY IS AVAILABLE** on our web site at www.clewiston-fl.gov or www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF UTILITY PAYMENT SCAMS: Scam artists are calling Utility customers posing as employees of Clewiston Utilities and threatening disconnection of services if payment is not made immediately. Please be aware:

- 1) **Clewiston Utilities will NEVER request you to purchase money cards or gift cards to pay your account over the phone.**
- 2) **Clewiston Utilities will NEVER contact our customers on the weekend and threaten disconnection of services.**
- 3) **Clewiston Utilities will NEVER speak to our customers in a threatening tone.**

If you feel you have been a victim of this scam, please contact Clewiston Utilities to verify the call or the Clewiston Police Department and file a report.